

## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

This following list of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the above-identified application:

### **List of Claims**

Claim 1-17. (Cancelled.)

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a container according to claim [[12]] 20, ~~the method~~ comprising:

forming a cylindrical side wall;

expanding the side wall at one end and necking the side wall at the opposite end;

forming an intermediate component having a seaming panel connected by a wall to a flat annulus, a substantially cylindrical wall portion and a centre panel;

cutting the centre panel out of the intermediate component and curling the cylindrical wall to form a ring component; and

seaming the ring component to the expanded end of the side wall and the centre panel to the necked end.

19. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 18, in which the step of forming the intermediate component comprises forming can end features on the centre panel.

20. (New) A metal container comprising a base, an axially opposite open ended side wall and a ring component, the ring component adapted to be closed by a peelable membrane or foil, the base and the ring component being formed from the same sheet of metal and fastened to opposite ends of the axially opposite open ended side wall,

in which the container side wall:

- a) is flared outwardly to a diameter  $D_2$  at the end to which the ring component is fixed by between 6 mm and X mm, where  $X=0.15$  times the diameter  $D_1$  of a central section of the container side wall, the central section being of a substantially constant cross-section;

and in which the container side wall:

- b) is tapered inwardly to a diameter  $D_3$  at the end to which the base is fixed by between 2 mm and Y mm, where  $Y=0.22$  times the diameter  $D_1$  of the central section of the container side wall.

21. (New) The metal container as defined in claim 20 wherein the difference between diameter  $D_2$  and diameter  $D_1$  is from 6 mm to 12 mm and the difference between diameter  $D_3$  and  $D_2$  is from 14 mm to 28 mm.

22. (New) The metal container as defined in claim 21 wherein the difference  $D_2 - D_1$  is between 10 mm and 11 mm and the difference  $D_2 - D_3$  is between 23 mm and 27 mm.

23. (New) The metal container as defined in claim 20 wherein the ring component includes a generally flat panel to which a peelable membrane or foil is fixed, and the flat panel having a seal width of 2 mm to 6 mm.

24. (New) The metal container as defined in claim 21 wherein an internal diameter of the ring component is substantially the same as or greater than the diameter  $D_1$ .

25. (New) The metal container as defined in claim 24 wherein the diameter  $D_3$  is at least 15 mm smaller than the diameter  $D_1$ .